



HIST 1302.A3E: History of the United States Since Reconstruction (Since 1865)

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Matt Brewer

Office Location: Commerce High School, Room C136

Office Hours: M-F 11:59 am to 1:03 pm; TR 7:30 am to 8:35 am, 9:28 am to 10:13 am, 2:45 pm to 3:30 pm

University Email Address: matthew.brewer@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24 hours, if not sooner

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

HIST 1302: A broad interdisciplinary course in the historical development of the United States and North America from 1865. Note: Assignments will focus on reading, writing, and analysis.

Prerequisites: **ENG 1301** or concurrent enrollment or **ENG 1302** or concurrent enrollment.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Texts:

Locke, Joseph and Ben Wright, eds. *The American Yawp*. <http://www.americanyawp.com/>

Additional, free sources will be assigned from the Internet.

Student Learning Outcomes

As a Core Curriculum requirement, this class focuses on four common Student Learning Outcomes:

1. **Critical Thinking** - Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. **Oral/Visual Communication** - Students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. **Personal Responsibility** - Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
4. **Social Responsibility** - Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

Student Learning Outcomes will be assessed by the Student Responsibility Quiz and a Primary Source Analysis assignment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student Responsibility Sheet:

On the first day of class, we will complete the Student Responsibility Sheet as a class. The purpose of the Student Responsibility Sheet is to assess the student's role in their education by answering questions using the syllabus.

Participation:

Students will receive notes and questions that they will answer before attending that class session. Students will not use electronic devices during class. They should either write their questions and answers on paper or type them up and print them out. During class, we will use the questions to guide the lecture and make it more interactive, rather than just me talking the whole period. Students will answer questions when called upon. Students should not fear giving a wrong answer; that's how we learn. Students should fear not being prepared.

Exams:

Students will complete a written midterm and final exam in class. Students will write a half page response to five prompts that they choose out of many options. Make up exams for absent students will be arranged with the instructor.

Primary Source Analyses:

Students will complete several primary source analyses in class. If students are absent on the day an analysis is completed, they will not be penalized and will not need to complete it. This assignment asks students to analyze information, communicate clearly and effectively, and show awareness of social and civil issues or problems. Using the selected primary source document, students should write 1-2 paragraphs that: (1) identify the author/creator and context of the document (including when and where it was created); (2) consider the purpose of the

document, including the author's goals in its creation and its intended audience; and (3) evaluate the document, analyzing why this document is important to help understand the historical period or the events it describes (its significance), and how the document contributes to our historical understanding of the period (historical causes and effect). The written analysis should be presented using full and complete sentences and proper grammar and punctuation.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Midterm Exam = 25% of final grade

Final Exam = 25% of final grade

Participation = 25% of final grade

Primary Source Analyses = 25% of final grade

No extra credit will be given. Please don't ask.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week 1 (Monday, August 17 to Friday, August 21)

Friday, August 21 - First day of class

Week 2 (Monday, August 24 to Friday, August 28) Unit 1 The Gilded Age

Week 3 (Monday, August 31 to Friday, September 4) Unit 2 The Progressive Era

Week 4 (Monday, September 7 to Friday, September 11) Unit 3 Era of Overseas Expansion

Monday, September 7 - No class/holiday

Week 5 (Monday, September 14 to Friday, September 18) Unit 4 Transition to Modern America/Roaring Twenties/Jazz Age

Week 6 (Monday, September 21 to Friday, September 25) Unit 5 Great Depression/Dust Bowl/New Deal

Monday, September 21 - No class/Teacher Day at CHS

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Week 7 (Monday, September 28 to Friday, October 2) Unit 6 World War II
Monday, September 28 - Midterm Exam

Week 8 (Monday, October 5 to Friday, October 9) October Break
No class this week - October Break.

Week 9 (Monday, October 12 to Friday, October 16) Unit 7 World War II

Week 10 (Monday, October 19 to Friday, October 23) Unit 8 Onset of the Cold War and the 1950s

Week 11 (Monday, October 26 to Friday, October 30) Unit 9 The Civil Rights Movements
Monday, October 26 - No class/Teacher Day at CHS

Week 12 (Monday, November 2 to Friday, November 6) Unit 10 The Cold War Continues

Week 13 (Monday, November 9 to Friday, November 13) Unit 11 The 1970s and 80s

Week 14 (Monday, November 16 to Friday, November 20) Unit 12 The 1990s and 2010s

Week 15 (Monday, November 23 to Friday, November 27) Thanksgiving Break
No class this week - Thanksgiving Break

Week 16 (Monday, November 30 to Friday, December 4)
Friday, December 4 - Last class day

Week 17 (Monday, December 7 to Friday, December 11) Finals Week
Monday, December 7 - Final Exam

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Students should interact with the instructor in person or through email if they have any questions.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Statement on Student Grievances

Students who have questions or concerns about the instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the instructor or a classmate should first consult with the instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky (Sharon.Kowalsky@etamu.edu). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of

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the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guide Book.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

ETAMU Attendance

Absences will not count against a student's grade. It is very important that students show up to class, or their learning will suffer.

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is using someone else's work and passing it off as your own. Copying-and-pasting is the most common form of plagiarism, but paraphrasing someone's work without giving them credit for the ideas is also plagiarism. While the use of artificial intelligence is relatively new and up for debate, using AI to do the work for you and passing it off as your own is also dishonest. Please refrain from all forms of academic dishonesty. It could result in academic consequences, including disciplinary action.

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

AI Use Policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there may be legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructor's guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

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For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

On the Commerce High School campus, firearms are prohibited, with the exception of law enforcement officers.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counsel



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>